

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recycling method for a developer supply unit for supplying a developer to developing means for developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrophotographic photosensitive member, wherein
5 said developer supply unit is detachably mountable to a main assembly of an electrophotographic image forming apparatus and includes a developer accommodating portion for accommodating the developer,
10 a developer supply port for supplying the developer to said developing means and a feeding member for feeding the developer to the developer supply port from the developer accommodating portion, said method comprising:

15 an injection step of injecting the developer through the developer supply port; and
driving step of driving the feeding member in a direction for feeding the developer from the developer supply port to the developer accommodating
20 portion,

by which the developer is fed from the developer supply port to fill the developer accommodating portion with the developer.

25 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said injection step and said driving step are started simultaneously.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said injection step is started after said driving step is started.

5 4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein in said injection step, the developer is injected with said developer supply port with such an orientation that of the developer supply unit that said developer supply port faces substantially up.

10 5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the feeding member rotates in a predetermined rotational direction to feed the developer in an axial direction of said feeding member when the developer is to be fed
15 from the developer accommodating portion to the developer supply port, and in said driving step, the feeding member is rotated in a direction opposite to the predetermined rotational direction.

20 6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the developer supply unit has a coupling portion for engagement with a main assembly coupling portion provided in the main assembly of the image forming
25 apparatus to transmit a driving force to the feeding member when the developer supply unit is mounted to the main assembly of the image forming apparatus, wherein in said driving step, a rotational driving

force is transmitted from the coupling portion to the feeding member.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein said
5 driving step includes connecting a driving force
generating device for generating a rotational driving
force with the coupling portion to supply the
rotational driving force to the feeding member from
the driving force generating device.

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8. A method according to Claim 6, wherein said
driving step includes connecting the coupling portion
with a rotation drive transmission member, wherein the
rotation drive transmission member is manually rotated
15 to drive the feeding member.

9. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the
developer supply unit includes a supply port cover
movable between an opening position for opening the
20 developer supply port and a closing position for
closing the developer supply port, wherein the supply
port cover is engaged with the main assembly of the
apparatus and is moved from the closing position to the
opening position when the developer supply unit is
25 mounted to the main assembly of the apparatus,

said method further comprising a supply port
opening step of moving the supply port cover to the

opening position.

10. A method according to Claim 9, further
comprising a supply port closing step of moving the
5 supply port cover from the opening position to the
closing position after said injection step.

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said
injection step includes a guiding member insertion
10 step of inserting a guiding member through the
developer supply port, wherein the developer is
injected through the guiding member.

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